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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

U. S. National Academy of Sciences.—The following papers were read at the meeting commencing April 15, 1890.

1. The effects of the inhalation of Nitrogen, Nitrous Oxide, Oxygen, and Carbonic Acid upon the Circulation: with special reference to the Nitrous Oxides, Anæsthesia and Asphyxia; H. C. Wood, presented by Dr. J. Billings. 2. On the Application of Interference Methods to Astronomical Measurements, A. A. Michelson. 3. Physiognomy of the American Tertiary Hemiptera, S. H. Scudder. 4. Totality of the Eclipse of 1889, December 22, D. P. Todd. Presented by the Home Secretary. 5. The Budding of *Salpa* considered in relation to the Question of the Inheritance of Acquired Characters, W. K. Brooks. 6. Recent Advances Towards a Knowledge of the Fishes of the Great Oceanic Depths, G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean. 7. A System of Classification of Variable Stars, S. C. Chandler. 8. On the Spectrum of Metals, H. A. Rowland. 9. On the Cheapest Light, S. P. Langley. 10. On the Relation of Secular Disintegration to certain Crystalline and Transitional Schists, R. Pumpelly. 11. On the Structure of the Green Mountains, R. Pumpelly. 12. The Interrelationships of the Ichthyopsida, Theo. Gill.

The following members were elected: George L. Goodale, Cambridge, Mass.; Russell H. Chittenden, New Haven, Conn.; Thos. L. Casey, Washington, D. C., and Richmond M. Smith, New York.

On the evening of Wednesday, April 16th, the Henry Draper Medal was presented to Prof. H. A. Rowland, of Baltimore, Md.

Prof. S. P. Langley resigned the office of Vice President, to take effect April 1, 1891.

Brookville, Indiana, Society of Natural History.—Annual meeting March 28th, Mr. E. R. Quick in the chair. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, C. W. McClure; Vice-President, E. R. Quick; Secretary, R. M. King; Corresponding Secretary, H. M. Stoops; Treasurer, A. W. Butler; Librarian, Edw. Hughes. Curators: Mammalogy, E. R. Quick; Botany, O. M. Meyncke; Ornithology, A. W. Butler; Entomology, C. W. McClure; Geology, C. F. Goodwin; Mineralogy, G. R. King; Archæology, H. M. Stoops; Ichthyology and Herpetology, Joseph Fieber.

Am. Nat.—May.—7.

C. W. McClure presented a paper on "The Ox Worble," with especial reference to the damage it does by spoiling the hides of cattle in this vicinity. E. R. Quick read a paper on "Rats." He gave the date of the appearance of the common rat, as near as could be ascertained, in this vicinity, noted some of their habits, and gave special attention to the appearance of these animals within the past winter in unusual numbers at many points in the Ohio Valley. The following subjects were also presented by C. W. McClure, "The Early Blooming of Flowers," and "The Hibernation of Water Snakes (*Trop. sipedon*). By Edw. Hughes, "On the Occurrence of *Hyla pickeringii* and *Chorophilus triseriatus* in Franklin County, Indiana." By E. R. Quick, "Notes on the Breeding Habits of *Hyla versicolor*."

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Edmond Hébert.—Died April 4th, 1890, Edmond Hébert, Professor of Geology in the Sorbonne, Dean of the Scientific Faculty of Paris, and member of the Institute of France. Prof. Hébert was three times President of the Geological Society of France, and was the first President of the International Congress of Geologists. He was born at Villefargeau, near Auxerre, and his father was a soldier of the republic and of the empire. Hébert was the most accomplished stratigraphic geologist of France, and perhaps of Europe, especially in the Cænozoic and Mesozoic departments. He was the author of many important papers and memoirs. He was a man of much energy and also amiability of character, traits which were exhibited in his personal appearance and manners.

Sir Richard Owen was recently attacked by paralysis, a circumstance which gave rise to premature reports of his death. At last accounts he was slowly recovering, but at his advanced age his situation is regarded as serious.

During this the third season the Marine Biological Laboratory will have the following corps of instructors: Dr. C. O. Whitman, Director, Howard Ayers, H. C. Bumpus, E. G. Gardiner, J. S. Kingsley, J. Playfair McMurrich, W. M. Rankin, W. A. Setchell.

The laboratory is located on the coast at Wood's Holl, near the laboratories of the United States Fish Commission. It has added to it this year a library, a lecture-room, and six more private laboratories.